dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

In addition to the above, the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts have taken number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases, viz., grouping and classification of cases involving similar question of law setting up of specialised benches, computerization of records, etc.

Backlog of pending cases in various courts

2085. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Justice delayed is justice denied" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 11th February, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that despite several law Commissions and various recommendations made by Supreme Court, the backlog of pending cases in various courts have not been affected;

(c) if so, whether Government have also not accepted the recommendations of Law Commission and Supreme Court in this regard; and

(d) the time by which an effective action would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court of India which was 1,04,936 as on 31.12.1991, has come down to 20,260 as on 1.02.2000.

The pendency of cases in the High Courts, which was 26.51 lakhs as on 31.12.1993, increased to about 32.51 lakhs as on 31.12.1998 and was about 33 lakhs cases as on 31.12.1999.

As per available information, the pendency of cases in the District/ Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.95 was 2.18 crore. The pendency has decreased to 2.02 crore as on 31.12.1998.

(c) and (d) Action for quick and speedy disposal of cases is a continuous process. On the basis of the recommendations of the Law Commission as well as from other Committee and Conferences, including the Chief Justices' Conference, various steps have been taken by the Government for speedy

disposal of cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/ Judicial officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution. Such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

In addition to the above, the Supreme Court of India has taken a number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases, viz., grouping and classification of cases involving similar question of law, setting up of specialised benches, computerization for records, etc. These are also being followed by various High Courts in the country.

In pursuance of the orders passed by the Supreme Court of India, in the Cases Common Cause Vs Union of India, and R. D. Upadhay Vs State of Andhra Pradesh & Others, the Central Government has written to all the State Governments and UT Administrations to take urgent necessary steps to close cases involving minor offences pending for two years and more, and cases of under trials who are languishing in various jails in the country respectively.

Amendments to Bar Council over Civil Procedure Code

2086. SHRI SANATAN BISI:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI V. N. GADGIL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Bar Council of India has expressed its grave concern over the manner and method in which large scale and far reaching amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure have been rushed/passed through Parliament by Amending Act of 1999;

(b) whether Government has received any suggestions/objections raised by the Bar of the country in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Government actually looked into the matter before passing the said Amendment Act of 1999; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?